

Arizona Data Governance Commission

Minutes of the meeting  
Friday, May 17, 2013  
Arizona Department of Education  
Conference Room 409

**Roll Call – Aiden Fleming – 10:02 a.m.**

**Members Present**

Elliott Hibbs (Chair)  
Jeffery Billings  
Patrick Burns  
Rod Lenniger

Dean Farar  
Michele Norin (V-Chair)  
Aaron Hale

Gordon Wishon  
Josh Allen

**Members Not Present**

Rick Krug  
Fred Estrella  
Rick Ogston

**Staff:**

Chris Kotterman- Deputy Director of Policy Development & Government Relations, ADE  
Aiden Fleming, Legislative Liaison, ADE

**Welcome and Introduction**

Chairman Hibbs called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. The minutes of the commission's February and April meetings were ***approved by a unanimous voice vote.***

**Legislative Update by Chris Kotterman**

Chris Kotterman, ADE Policy Development & Government Relations, updated the commission members on recent Senate activity including the proposal to fund AELAS at the full amount ADE had requested which includes 24 million for the next fiscal year, 11 million the following year and 3.9 million the year after that. Mr. Kotterman noted that the approx. 40 million total is considered a seed investment and that all ADE units will be technically supported. He went on to stress the importance of this funding in establishment of a new data system as he has been informed it is likely the current SAIS system will suffer catastrophic failure if it is not overhauled in the next two years. Mr. Kotterman remained to answer questions.

Mr. Billings stated concern that the dollars would not be coming directly to ADE and instead flowing through ADOA.

Mr. Kotterman confirms ADE will directly receive funding.

Chairman Hibbs states excitement over the senate approval of this data system funding.

Vice Chair Norin confers congratulations upon this news.

**Presentation by Josh Allen: Early Childhood Data System Needs**

Josh Allen, First Things First, starts off his presentation by stressing the need for data collection in other areas outside of preschool. Mr. Allen notes that preschool is a major component of data collection Pre-K, however early childhood systems and data needs can cover more ground in other areas like homes, families, and private providers, the hope is to eventually link all these together, the first step is to make these entities viable data gathering resources. Mr. Allen then presented a strategic data and planning cycle which would help streamline appropriations of resources when hypothetically implemented. Mr. Allen went on to explain the nature of First Things First, i.e. that they have little direct contact with children but rather work with vendors like ADE to implement programs thus the importance of inter-agency and an inter-program collaboration of data collection and appropriation of funds is of vital importance. Mr. Allen reiterated the importance of data driven decision making being influenced by early childhood outcomes, and taking the first step in indicating school readiness and where funding should be strategically placed. Mr. Allen finished by indicating that efficiency in funding both Pre-K and K-12 can be strategically linked as there are real similarities in the data needs and possibilities of efficiency growth in both groups. The common connector here is hinged on a universal student identification number that can link both groups and better help K-12 gauge where students are entering the public system and where the best areas to fund education lie. Mr. Allen opened the forum up for questions.

Chairman Hibbs questions the possibility to have a common identifier among all children.

Mr. Allen admits that you will never be able to identify all children at an early childhood level for the most part because parents are often the best providers of early care and education. Many children will never enter any type of third party provider of childcare until the public system, however Mr. Allen stated that there are a large amount of providers that we can tap into to provide data on a representative portion of the population to be able to better understand how to appropriate funding, this although is not only on the present commission, we need to bring more providers into the fold to report and collect this data.

**Policy Discussion lead by Chris Kotterman: Possible Direction to Staff on Preschool Data System Needs**

Mr. Kotterman begins by describing the struggles of ADE staff to prioritize and identify what the needs are for preschool and post-secondary education as it pertains to supplementary K-12 data. Problems within the agency include the integration of four distinct different types of data and whether the agency should articulate a standard that doesn't exist to unify the data.

Mr. Burns states the first hurdle is to create common data standards and a unique data identifier.

Mr. Hale continues discussion by stating that a SAIS ID from early childhood is the best place to start tracking. He then states the need to see if there are noticeable result differences between FTF kids and other populations in early K-12 tests, after results are tangible they can channel grant money to those who have the most effective outcomes in shaping Pre-K education.

Mr. Allen agrees that the entire goal of this effort is to link students Pre-K to K-12 and at the center of this effort is creating a common link. Mr. Allen cautions however, that the challenge with early childhood data is that the sample size is so small it will be tough to draw initial conclusions based on

only a few years of data and he encourages patience when preliminary decisions are made based upon such data.

Mr. Kotterman argues that it is important to identify one educational data entity to solidify first before moving this entity to other teachers and vendors, that the department should first get a student domain system off the ground then follow up with other vendors later.

Mr. Hale concurs.

Mr. Kotterman asks Mr. Allen if FTF requires any types of IEP's for early childhood kids.

Mr. Allen confirms FTF does not deal with any IEP's, however they do fund the K-12 transition for IEP type kids.

Mr. Kotterman asks the commission how much priority Pre-K data development in a dashboard format is in relation to K-12 data funding, does the commission think Pre-K should get a substantial amount of funding with its importance to later results in K-12 or should K-12 data collection be the overriding priority?

Mr. Allen says that data already exists on Pre-K individuals but that it is cumbersome in form and tough to unify, that they are looking to create an interactive dashboard where people can come see data on early childhood education that will really help them shape their decision on Pre-K education.

Mr. Burns asks if they collect SSN's in early childhood development and bemoans the ability to link SSN's and SAIS numbers in early education, cites duplicates and wrong numbers as being a problem.

Mr. Allen reassures the commission that while wrong numbers and duplicates are bad at individual levels, they do not cloud any type of findings in such large data samples.

Mr. Kotterman wraps up by proposing that early childhood data continue, but to focus on the students for which data is available at a very young age, track them across the early childhood divide and once the department gets a large enough sample size then they can start allocating resources most efficiently.

Mr. Billings concurs.

Mr. Hale states that just knowing where to go back and find data from Pre-K should be the first step.

Chairman Hibbs clarifies that for uses of the commission preschool should be defined as birth to five.

Chairman Hibbs wraps up policy discussion, states the department has got an external contractor to provide oversight over AELAS, will deliver report to the legislature in August and every quarter following. This contractor will also be another set of eyes for what we want to accomplish and will put forth suggestions to streamline the efficiency of the AELAS program.

#### **Presentation by Mark Masterson: IMS Status Update**

Mark Masterson CIO for ADE starts by saying that they anticipated that all SIS vendor federation would be complete by now, but they have learned that vendors are tricky to work with. Mr. Masterson continues by updating current operations which include Vendor SIS integration and testing currently

underway with Pearson PowerSchool, Edupoint, and future testing to be started with Infinite Campus and Tyler Tech by the end of June. Mr. Masterson also tells the commission that they have now completed HR integration and can use the IMS to create employee and contractor access, MCESA systems will use IMS for ADE access and SLDS will continue to work on IMS. The system is configured for high availability and scalable as the users and systems grow.

Mr. Hale asks if they will have a teacher ID system.

Mr. Masterson confirms.

Mr. Hale also asks if they have contemplated data access as it applies to split family relationships of children.

Mr. Masterson responds that data will be made available based on individuals' relationship to the student.

Mr. Masterson then proceeds to inform the commission of future work scheduled: June and July will include implementations of grants management, Move on When Reading, phase II decision support reporting system and assessments. In the middle of June testing will commence for Infinite Campus, hopefully data will be available for the LEA's before the start of the school year. Mr. Masterson additionally states that they are working on the ability to give control of this data to LEA's so that they can track all of the children at a closer level.

Chairman Hibbs asks if log-ons will carry over or are they going to have to make new universal log-ons.

Mr. Masterson states they are working with four vendors; Pearson, Infinite Campus, Education Access and Tyler Tech and that the next step is to provide direct access to students, parents, teachers and district administrators. Mr. Masterson states the two-pronged rollout plan will continue which includes: SIS configuration and system onboarding.

#### **Presentation by Britto Augustine: School Finance Data Push**

(Original presenter Komal Dubey was not able to attend, Augustine took her place)

Britto Augustine says there are two sides to the SAIS module; enrollment and payments, today the current process is moving data from one system to another and that there are too many manual interventions to run the current efficiently. Mr. Augustine states that currently 8-10 hours a day is dedicated to one individual for data input in school finance and that the system is too time-consuming and can be streamlined. He and his team have come up with a new process that has an application server do the processing all itself and after finished it notifies the school finance department. Mr. Augustine explains the new process includes: A single web app, streamlined improved processing time, minimal manual intervention and notifications when done. Mr. Augustine continues that performance results have been extraordinary dropping the processing time for extracting and loading data from eight hours to one minute and 15 seconds; ADM reports from three hours to 40 minutes, making the total process time from the old to new systems 11 hours and 20 minutes down to 47 minutes.

Mr. Hale asks if they have any way of tracking who looks at the reports.

Mr. Billings adds if there has been discussion to change reports.

Mr. Masterson steps back in to answer: replies that they are moving away from pdf's to a system that can automatically analyze data, this system would run every night and when administrators came back in the morning the data would be ready for them.

Chairman Hibbs states that performance results look good but questions whether there has been any accuracy problems with the new system.

Mr. Augustine responds that there have been no problems that they have seen so far.

Mr. Hale notes that the system is manually launched and questions whether that will change.

Mr. Augustine replies that they can automate that very easily.

Chairman Hibbs notes that this system update just pertains to one program and asks if they are going to streamline all of the other finance systems.

Mr. Augustine replies that is the plan.

Mr. Masterson adds that the only human that should look at the system is the auditor and that nobody needs to look at the computer data just the streamlined data result.

#### **Budget Recommendations: Mark Masterson**

Mr. Masterson proposed his fourth quarter objectives including: a goal to complete third party assessment by July, bringing in additional staff to accommodate all data requests which have been at a standstill lately, transference of responsibility of data input from ADE to LEA's, prepping a data conference to which all LEA's are invited, lower the amount of noise ADE gives LEA's in the first year by 50% and the second year by 99%. Noise was defined as Mr. Masterson as the amount of contact LEA's receive from ADE about individual student data, which in essence should be able to be looked up from ADE with the new system. Mr. Masterson also said that beginning in July they would start working project to project updating and streamlining infrastructure. He states currently the infrastructure bank is at \$150,000.

#### **Resource Requests: Mark Masterson**

Mr. Masterson hereby requests:

SAIS PHASE I Replacement - \$1.2 Million  
Improve Internal ADE Programs - \$1.2 Million  
TOTAL of \$2.4 Million

Mr. Masterson turns it over the commission for decision.

#### **Motion/Budget Approvals**

Mr. Billings moved to approve \$2.4 million for SAIS Phase I Replacement and Improvement of Internal ADE Programs

Mr. Hale seconded the motion.

***The committee adopted the motion with a unanimous voice vote.***

Chairman Hibbs motioned for approval of February and April's Minutes  
Mr. Billings seconded the motion

***The committee adopted the motion with a unanimous voice vote.***

### **Adjourn**

Chairman Hibbs adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.